

**Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application  
PCT/EP99/04449 filed June 26, 1999**

**--BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

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The present invention relates generally to self-dispersing, hardenable epoxy resins, the epoxy resins based on  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acid esters, processes for their production, aqueous dispersions containing such epoxy resins, and to their use in coating solid substrates.--

At page 5, ~~between lines 2 and 3~~, insert:

--The present invention also includes processes for the production of self-dispersing, hardenable epoxy resins.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--**

At page 13, between lines 1 and 2, insert --What is claimed is:--.

Please add new page 15, which is attached hereto, containing an Abstract of the Disclosure, following the claims.

**In the Claims:**

Please add new claims 8-20, as follows:

--8. (New) A process for producing self-dispersing, curable, epoxy resins, the process comprising:

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(i) reacting (a) one or more  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acid esters of the general formula (I),



with (b) one or more aminopolyalkylene oxide compounds having at least one aminonitrogen atom with one or more reactive hydrogen atoms, wherein  $R^1$  represents a hydrocarbon radical having up to 15 carbon atoms, wherein  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , and  $R^4$  each independently represents a substituent selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydrocarbon radicals having up to 20 carbon atoms, and  $-(CH_2)_n-COOR^1$ , wherein  $R^1$  is as defined above and  $n$  represents a